

Big Bend National Park

Ranger Led Programs

December 28, 2014 – January 3, 2015

Sunday, December 28

Sorry, no programs today. The 22 mile-long Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive offers access to eight different trails, several scenic vistas, many paved pullouts with exhibits that highlight park geology and cultural history, and culminates at the Castolon Historic District. Take a day and go explore!

Monday, December 29

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Desert Trivia” What defines a desert? Considered desolate, uninhabitable lands by some, deserts can be places of spectacular diversity and stark beauty. Join Ranger M. Lavender and learn about the deserts of the US, and what makes the Chihuahuan Desert of Big Bend so special. Meet at Dugout Wells, 6 miles southeast of Panther Junction. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. ½ mile. 1 hour.

Tuesday, December 30

3:00 PM Guided Walk – “Islands in the Sky” It is hard to stand in the Chisos Basin and not have a heightened sense of one’s surroundings. The forested environment supports a variety of plants and animals not found elsewhere in the park. Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a discussion of the “sky island” ecology of the Chisos Mountains. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Wheelchair accessible. 1/3 mile. 45 minutes.

Wednesday, December 31

9:30 AM Morning Program – “Birds do Crazy Things!” With more bird diversity than any other National Park, Big Bend is a great place to see birds. Come observe Texas specialty birds and explore some of their unique behaviors with volunteers J. & S. Ewan. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Store patio. 1 mile stroll. hour.

3:00 PM Afternoon Program – “Bear Country” Whether you are staying at the Lodge, camping, or hiking in the Chisos Mountains or foothills you are in *Bear Country*. Join Ranger M. Lavender to learn more about how to enjoy Bear Country safely and agreeably with the unique population of Mexican Black Bears that make Big Bend home. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. 45 min.

Thursday, January 1 – New Year’s Day

5:30 PM Evening Guided Walk – “The Missing Predator” Big Bend National Park may seem like a complete ecosystem; however, something has been missing from the landscape for several years. Come join Ranger D. Schalue and learn about the wolves, their history in Big Bend, and how they can change a landscape. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail, across from campsite 18. Bring a flashlight and dress per weather conditions. 0.75 miles. 1 hour.

Friday, January 2

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Thriving in the Desert” How can life survive in this harsh desert environment? Join Ranger L. Huseman to learn about the amazing adaptations of desert plants, and their uses by humans and animals. Short walk on the Panther Path. Meet outside the Panther Junction Visitor Center. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

Saturday, January 3

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Big Bend: The Ultimate Wildlife Garden” Wildlife habitat everywhere is shrinking; however, you can do your part to change that and support your wildlife. Come join Ranger D. Schalue for a discussion about the benefits of plants for wildlife and ourselves. Meet at the Window View Trailhead in the Chisos Mountains. Wheelchair accessible. 1/3 mile walk. 45 minutes.